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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/731,106 | 12/06/2000 | Jeffrey L. Jennings | 48674/153 | 7933 |

26371 7590 05/08/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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DEXTER, CLARK F

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3724

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K

Office Action Summary

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Application No. 09/731,106 | Applicant(s) Jennings |
| Examiner Clark F. Dexter | Art Unit 3724 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 13, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed February 13, 2003 has been entered. The indicated allowability of claims 1-12 and 15-19 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Taylor, Jr., pn 5,331,741. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow. Any inconvenience caused by this Office action is regretted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor, Jr., pn 5,331,741.

Taylor discloses a folding knife (e.g., in Figure 4) with every structural limitation of the claimed invention including a handle (e.g., 15, 19); a blade (e.g., 12) and blade axle (e.g., 22); a liner lock (e.g., 32); and an eccentric adjustment mechanism (e.g., 47). It is noted that the top, bottom, front and the back of the liner lock aperture have not been sufficiently defined with

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respect to other features of the liner lock and/or the other knife components to limit them to a specific location.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor, Jr., pn 5,331,741.

Taylor lacks the specifics of the eccentric adjustment mechanism. However, the Examiner takes Official notice that fastening components having the recited structure are old and well known in the art and provide various well known benefits including providing a more secure connection while facilitating removal and operation thereof. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide an eccentric adjustment mechanism having the specific claimed features for the well known benefits including those described above.

Remarks

6. The Examiner's position is that the claimed invention has not been sufficiently defined to distinguish over the prior art of record, particularly the newly-cited prior art, and that the prior art

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reads on and/or suggests the claimed limitations. Applicant is invited to contact the Examiner to discuss ways to amend the claims to clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers Technology Center 3700 are: after-final responses - (703)872-9303; other formal/official papers - (703)872-9302. The fax number for informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cf
May 5, 2003